



Council Highlights



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - October 25, 2018

Regional Assessment Review Board

- County Council was presented with a recommendation from Administration to form a Regional Assessment Review Board (ARB).
- Athabasca County, the Town of Athabasca and the Village of Boyle discussed formation of the new board as a form of regional collaboration.
- Traditionally, recruiting enough members to sustain three separate boards has been a challenge due to a requirement for members to take certification training.
- Council felt the idea would work for the municipality and adopted Bylaw 023-2018 which will see the creation of the board. The Town and Village will need to pass similar bylaws to make the change take place.
- Currently there are four trained ARB members available to hear assessment complaints. One additional member will be trained to round out a pool of qualified members to accommodate the scheduling of hearings.

Alberta Parks request

- Council received a request from Alberta Parks to provide a letter of support to start a public consultation surrounding the designation of Long and Narrow Lakes as a protected area.
- Alberta Parks wants to start a 60-day consultation to allow the community to provide input about desired protections for the area including recreational buildings and leases, OHV use or limits, hunting and trapping activities, as well as resources the community feels necessary for enforcement.
- County Council considered the request but felt a letter of support might be taken as an overall endorsement by the County for all proposed changes.
- A motion to set up a meeting with Alberta Environment and Parks and MLA Colin Piquette to discuss the request was made and adopted.

TED Strategic Plan

- Council was presented with a recommendation to adopt the 2018-2021 Tourism and Economic Development (TED) Strategic Plan.
- The strategic plan sets out goals for tourism marketing, and advertising, to help promote the Athabasca region, while also encouraging tourism based businesses.
- It also provides several focus areas for Economic Development activities including the promotion of regional assets, identifying opportunities for growth and asset improvements, and the development of a Regional Economic Development website.
- Strategies were also developed in the plan to assist TED to connect with business and industry, foster good working relationships, and grow development in our region.
- TED Committee membership includes the Town of Athabasca, the Village of Boyle, Athabasca University, Athabasca County and public members at large.
- County Council adopted the 2018-2021 TED Strategic Plan as presented.

Wetlands & Remediation

- Provincial Wetland Specialist Mr. Matthew Wilson and Ms. Amber Cooper joined the meeting to discuss Alberta Wetlands.
- Their presentation covered information about wetland policies and legislation, different classes of wetlands, and development policies surrounding them.
- Council also heard when development is planned around a wetland it can currently take up to a year to receive an approval from the province.
- The province is looking to reduce that time period and is testing an electronic approval system.